(c) by when Government propose to make arrangements for providing emergency lights at all the airports in the country so that sudden power failures do not cause inconvenience to the passengers?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) At all the airports managed by International Airports Authority of India and National Airports Authority and served by Indian Airlines, standby generators are available to provide emergency light to meet minimum operational requirement.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Transport contracts in Coal India Limited

1066. SHRI RAM AWADHESH SINGH: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are taking steps to reduce the influence of monopolistic contractors in Coal India Limited by increasing the number of small contractors in transport business and supply of other essential items in order to provide livelihood to literate youths; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S. B. NYAMAGOUDAR): (a) and (b) All contractual jobs in the coal companies are awarded through the system of open tenders. To prevent the monopolistic tendencies among private contractors, jobs of internal transportation of coal and sand are being given to ex-servicemen companies sponsored by the Director General of Resettlement, Ministry of Defence and cooperative societies sponsored by the District Administration. Such cooperatives cover also the weaker sections of the society. There are at present no schemes to give preference to literate youth in the award of transport contracts. In respect of essential store items, the coal companies consciously encourage ancillaries, SSI Units and small enterpreneurs, indirectly providing livelihood to literate youth.

Supply of coal to thermal power station

1067. SHRI S. MADHAVAN: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration for coal linkages so that every thermal power station is linked to the nearest coal mine;

(b) whether Government propose to arrange for supply of coal with higher calorific value to thermal power stations located at far away places from the coal mines as in the case of Tamil Nadu State; and

(c) whether the Tamil Nadu Government have represented its difficulties in getting coal due to shortfall or production at Singareni Collieries; if so, what are the details thereof and the action taken thereon?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S. B. NYAMAGOUDAR): (a) Under the present arrangements thermal power stations are being linked to the nearest coal mines on long term basis by Standing Linkage Committee (Long term) subject to the quantity and quality of coal available, already existing linkages and transport logistics. Modifications in these long term linkages become necessary in short term due to variations in anticipated production and requirements.

(b) Yes, Sir. Based on the recommendations of the Ronge Committee, which has suggested beneficiation of non-coking coal to be supplied to the power plants located over thousand K.Ms. away from the Coalfield. Kalinga mine cum beneficiation plant project has been planned for supply of beneficiated coal with higher calorific value to Tuticorin Extn. (4th and 5th units) and North Madras Stage-I